

RAPTURED



January

I had completed about 2/3rds of my morning walk when I saw a circular object on the ground. I like to find circular objects on the ground because they generally turn out to be coins. It was a funny-looking nickel! I looked around and picked up a half-dollar ... and then another one! Finally I found a quarter. A few yards away I picked up a penny. You may think that I was enriched by my finds. However, even though they looked somewhat like the real things in size, shape, and imprints, they were counterfeit. They were made out of plastic. The only exception was the penny. It was genuine and near the upper edge were the words, "In God We Trust."

When I got home I placed them on the kitchen stool and when Cynthia came by I showed her my finds. After breakfast I returned to the kitchen and they were all there, except for the penny. Now that presented **a mystery**. Where did that penny go? It was definitely not on the stool. It was not on the floor. The only thing that I can figure out is that it was raptured! All the counterfeits were there but the genuine coin was gone!

I checked I Corinthians 15:51 and it seemed to confirm my suspicions. "Behold, I tell you **a mystery**; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...." I was away for only a few minutes and the penny was gone, somewhat like "in the twinkling of an eye"! I didn't hear a trumpet but then my hearing isn't what it used to be.

Skipping over to I Thessalonians chapter four I read, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout... then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** ... and so we **shall ever be with the Lord**" (I Thess. 4:16-17). I didn't see the Lord nor did I hear a shout, but, as I said, my eyesight and hearing aren't what they used to be. That penny had to have been **caught up** because I know it didn't leave that kitchen stool on its own. From the last phrase of that verse, I doubt if I will **ever** see that penny on earth again. But that's okay. I am sure it is in good hands.


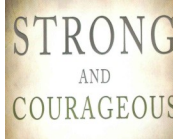


As we open the door into the new year, we need to remember that Jesus is going to take another "walk" from heaven to come pick up His own from this ground. Perhaps He will come in 2018? He won't pick up any counterfeits, either. He will snatch up only the genuine items: true believers who make up His bride, the Church.

The rapture will happen in a twinkling of an eye. The sleeping believers will wake up to the Lord's shout and we will then hear the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise and those of us who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. From then on we will always be with our Lord Jesus. What a reunion! What a hope! What a joy! It could happen today. It could happen this week! It could happen this year! Even so, come Lord Jesus.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words" (I Thess. 4:13-18).

Henry Hazard

12/22/17

 <p>Budget Committee (2017 HBC Board Chairpersons & Officers) will meet Sunday, Jan 7th at 3 p.m. at the church to plan the 2018 budget. This meeting is open to all HBC Members.</p>	<p>Ladies Afternoon Social January 15th, from 2-4 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. We will be sharing experiences and memories to develop deeper community together. Bring a snack item to share!</p>	<p>HBC's Annual Conference will be Sunday, Jan 21st, @ 3 p.m. This is open to all - come hear through our church leaders what God has done @ HBC for the year 2016!</p> <p>There will be no evening Service this day.</p>
<p>Sunday Nights at 6:30 p.m. we will be studying "The Sabbath Rest."</p>	<p>♥ Young at Heart will be on Friday, January 19th @ 11:30 a.m. At the Po ♥ Folks on 15th St. ♥</p>	 <p>Men's Meeting for January will be Jan 23rd @ 6:30 p.m. @ the church. Sign up on the foyer table at church.</p>
<p>Venture Out:</p> <p>Bible Study We will start our Bible Study at Venture Out beginning Jan 11th. We will meet Thursdays, at 10 a.m. @ the Clubhouse. See you there!</p> <p>Golden Angels Luncheon Our monthly luncheon will begin on Jan 18th, at 11:30 a.m. @ Triple J's on Thomas Dr.</p>	<p>Ladies Crafty Gathering January 20th, from 9-11 a.m. Bring a brunch item to share. Bring a craft or hobby to do and share. Adult coloring, painting, crochet, cross-stitch, and a Bible journaling presentation. Please come share and enjoy fellowship with one another.</p>	 <p>We are so honored that Alliance President John Stumbo will be the guest speaker at the 2018 Southern District Alliance Men's Retreat! Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this amazing event! Men age 12+ are invited to attend, cost is ~\$50. Sign-up at the back table or see Pastor Brian for more details. The 2018 Southern District Alliance Men's Retreat will be February 16-17 at Poplar Point Camp (Rockford, AL).</p>
	 <p>Will meet on Sundays, January 14th and 28th .</p>	

Facts & Figures

Finances for December

For Dec 1 to Dec 28

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget:	\$ 18,655.00
GOF Tithes and Offerings Received (4 Sundays):	\$ 19,185.18
General Operating Fund Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,305.00
GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes and Offerings (4 Sundays):	\$ 4,796.30

For Year to Date 2017, (based on 12 months and 52 Sundays):

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 223,860.00
GOF (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 223,860.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings Received:	\$ 243,000.43
GOF Year to Date Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements (\$5,955 for new Printer/copier) and Transfer to Other Funds	\$(227,822.50)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ 15,177.93
GOF Balance as of Dec 28 (248% of monthly budget):	\$ 46,124.01
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (52 Sundays):	\$ 4,673.09
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ 4,381.21
Missions YTD Income: Receipts (\$10,114) & 24% of Tithes & Offerings (\$58,320.11):	\$ 68,434.11
Missions YTD Disbursements:	\$ (65,804.95)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 6,356.82
Building Fund YTD Receipts including \$3,100 In Memory of Gifts:	\$ 3,807.88
Building Fund Disbursements: New Telephone Switch System:	\$ (2,243.60)
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 5,449.77
Associate Pastor Fund YTD Receipts:	\$ 12,844.00
Associate Pastor Fund YTD Disbursements: Compensation out of Assoc Past Fund:	\$ (36,435.92)
Associate Pastor Fund Balance:	\$ 2,175.99